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DIABETES IN PREGNANCY IN NORTH CAROLINA

by

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the prevalence of diabetes mellitus among North Carolina residents giving birth in 1989-1990, as reported in vital and hospital discharge records. Estimates of the prevalence of diabetes were similar in both data sources. Approximately three percent of all deliveries were reported to have been diagnosed with either preconceptional or gestational diabetes. Of those deliveries diagnosed with diabetes, 78.7 percent involved gestational diabetes only, while 21.3 percent occurred among mothers with preconceptional diabetes.

Also examined were maternal risk factors associated with diabetes among live born infants, as reported on the birth certificate. Advanced maternal age was strongly associated with an increased risk for diabetes. After controlling for age, married mothers were slightly more likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes, compared to single mothers, while a marginally increased risk was observed for rural versus urban residents. Women with parity of three or more were less likely to have diabetes, after adjusting for maternal age. Mother's educational status was not a major risk factor for diabetes, after controlling for age.

Odds ratios for diabetes among whites versus other races varied by maternal age, with whites having a higher risk at younger ages (≤ 25 years) and mothers of black and other races having a greater risk at older ages (≥ 30 years). These findings are generally consistent with those reported in previous studies.